

LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXII No. 4

December 2008

CALENDAR

Dec 7, Sunday 1-4 PM Holiday Barn Lighting; Westwind Community Barn; Santa, crafts, cookies & hot cider. All Free; music provided by local schools. Info. 948-8985

Dec. 20, Sat. 9-2 Fire Prevention / Brush & Yard Trimming Collection Event, Foothill College; Info. (831) 262-0473

Jan. 17, Sat. 9-2 Fire Prevention / Brush & Yard Trimming Collection Event, Foothill College; Info. (831) 262-0473

Feb. 21, Sat. 9-2 Fire Prevention / Brush & Yard Trimming Collection Event, Foothill College; Info. (831) 262-0473

LAH Parks and Rec. New LAH Preschool Playgroup
Meets every Tuesday and Friday;
9:00 - 11:30 AM
Shoup Park, Los Altos;
Info: 941-7222

Ongoing Free Mediation Services; Los Altos Mediation Program.
Info: 949-5267

USING PATHWAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH

The Town's Pathway System includes 24 miles of off-road pathways and 63 miles of roadside pathways. The Town spends about \$300,000 a year in labor and equipment costs in maintaining pathways. This fiscal year, the Town has budgeted nearly a million dollars on new pathways including a \$400,000 VTA grant. The Town pathway system provides residents with substantial recreational and public safety benefits. But did you know that building trails is cost beneficial from a public health perspective as well? According to the CDC's Trails for Health Initiative, physical activity can help to:

- Control weight
- Control high blood pressure
- Reduce risk for type 2 diabetes, heart attack, and colon cancer
- Reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety
- Reduce arthritis pain and disability
- Prevent osteoporosis and falls



City Manager Carl Cahill

Moreover, according to one cost benefit analysis study published in 2004, every \$1 investment in trails resulted in an estimated \$3 in direct medical benefits. The study is Cost-Benefit Analysis of Physical Activity Using Bike/Pedestrian Trails by Guijing Wang, PhD, Caroline A. Macera, PhD, Barbara Scudder-Soucie, Med, Tom Schmid, PhD, Michael Pratt, MD, MPH, David Buchner, MD, MPH.

Based on my own personal experience this past year I believe that a network of pathways and trails is not only a great investment in public recreation but indeed represents a cost effective foundational public health program. Last year I went to see my doctor to get a physical. The doctor advised me that I was overweight and needed to engage in regular vigorous exercise for at least 30 minutes a day. I started walking on a daily basis. With only minor changes in diet and a regimen of brisk walking, I was able to reduce my body mass index from 27.5 (overweight) to 23.7 (normal) in less than 10 months. My blood pressure also went down. The price for this "health benefit plan" was very low with just the cost of a pair of hiking boots and decent socks being the initial "premium." I also opted to purchase a pedometer that came with some great software for tracking my walking progress. I am averaging about eight thousand steps a day and my goal is ten thousand. Time is the most limiting factor. One of my favorite walks here in Town is walking from Town Hall to Westwind Barn and back. This walk offers a nice sampling of on and off-road pathways and can be done as a loop.

The Town's decomposed granite pathway surfaces require a lot of maintenance. Pathway conditions can change from acceptable to unacceptable very quickly. If you observe Town pathway conditions that appear to need maintenance attention, please let us know by calling Town Hall at 650-941-7222.

-- Carl Cahill, City Manager

New Maintenance Superintendent Appointed Welcome Jacob Asfour

Jacob Asfour was recently appointed to the position of Maintenance Superintendent for the Town of Los Altos Hills on August 14, 2008, after devoting the previous eleven years of his professional public works maintenance career with the Town of Woodside.

In his role as the LAH Maintenance Superintendent, Jacob oversees the management and organization of the maintenance work needed for our roads, pathways & open space, and storm drainage system. He responds to public maintenance requests by residents; manages a team of 3 employees; and recommends upgrades for capital equipment utilized in their daily work. Jacob reports to Public Works Director Richard Chiu, who states that, "Jacob is a great fit for this position possessing both the necessary technical training and experience along with excellent customer service skills."



Jacob Asfour

"I love my work and want to take good care of the residents. There is no maintenance task that I cannot personally perform – whether it is welding a pipe or operating a front-loader," states Jacob. "During the winter months, our primary job is keeping the roads, pathways and storm drain lines clear of debris, but in February & March we'll start roadway and pathway maintenance projects."

Jacob's professional journey to our Town via Woodside took a long and varied routes. He left his native Jordan where he received a high school diploma in welding from the Hassian Khalid Industrial High School and emigrated to the San Francisco Bay Area when he was 17 years old. Jacob then continued his education with 2 years of study at College of San Mateo and has completed various public works maintenance professional certification and training courses over the span of his career.

Because of his demonstrated abilities and skills, it is obvious that he has earned the respect of his fellow employees. The Town Corporation Yard has been completely reorganized. The addition of a new computer connected to Town Hall will facilitate a faster turnaround for work orders. Space is now allocated for training sessions and employee facilities are improved.

Jacob is eager to demonstrate that acquisition of new equipment can be justified based on cost benefit analysis. With the addition of new investment in capital equipment, proper training and motivation of staff, Jacob believes that many jobs that previously were contracted out can be performed in-house at a lower cost with better quality control.

In his free time, Jacob enjoys spending time with his beautiful family – wife Saray and two children.

Please join us in welcoming Jacob aboard!

Town's Investment Strategy Withstands Market Fluctuations

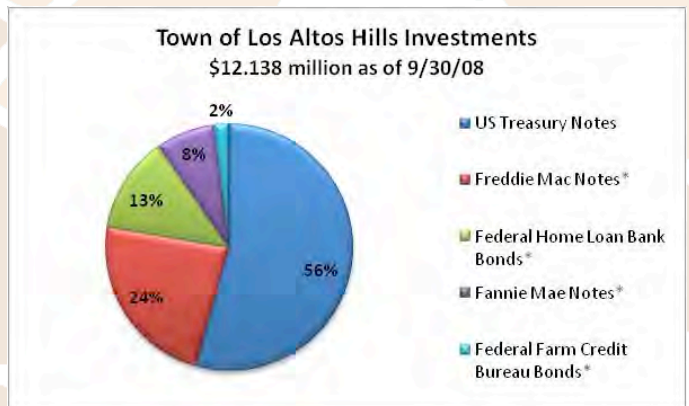
Investment returns have been the subject of many questions and residents have expressed interest in learning about the Town's investment portfolio. Overall, the Town's investments are managed by the Town's investment advisor, PFM Asset Management LLC, who is appointed by the City Council and monitored by Town staff and the Town's Finance and Investment Committee.

Investment Strategy

The Town's first and foremost investment strategy is to protect the portfolio's principal. This is currently achieved by investing in bonds and notes that are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. Second, the Town's portfolio must remain sufficiently liquid so as to allow for large ticket purchases and projects such as the \$1.2 million improvement to the Town's little league fields. Third, the investment strategy strives to optimize investment income. While investment income is an important aspect of the Town's budget, income is subordinate to principal preservation and liquidity when deciding to invest taxpayer funds.

Year-to-Date Experience

As of September 30, 2008, the Town's portfolio had a market value of \$12,138,046.27 and experienced a 6.00% year-to-date investment return. This return is influenced by the lack of liquidity associated with non-governmental debt which resulted in investors demanding U.S. Treasury obligations driving their values higher. The Town's investments are distributed as follows:



*** All Notes and Bonds are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. The Town has no stock holdings in FreddieMac or FannieMae.**

Future of the Town's Portfolio

The investment strategy has, thus far, sheltered the Town from the current year's financial downturn and the Town is committed to preserving capital and maintaining liquidity. In the long-term, however, this conservative strategy could result in lower than historic investment income.

-- Nick Pegueros, Finance Director

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No Wood Burning on Spare the Air Days

The winter season is upon us and many residents will be lighting up fireplaces in the coming months. Recently, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) passed a new rule regulating wood burning in the Bay Area. During the Winter Spare the Air Season from November 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009, residents who own or use any wood burning appliances are required to check for Spare the Air Alerts with the Air District before burning wood. Burning wood, fire logs, or pellets in your fireplace, woodstove, or fire pit is illegal when a Winter Spare the Air Alert is in effect.

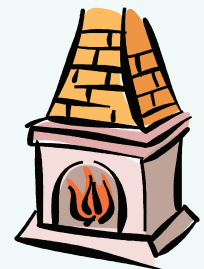


*Debbie Pedro,
Planning Director*

Wood smoke from residential wood burning appliances has been a health concern in the Bay Area for many years. According to the BAAQMD, wood burning is a major source of wintertime air pollution. Wood smoke contains microscopic particles, or particulate matter (PM), which is invisible to the naked eye. The tiny particles can cause eye and throat irritation and headaches. In addition, PM has been linked to serious health effects, such as aggravated asthma and increased respiratory symptoms.

It is important to check before you burn at SpareTheAir.org or 1-877-4-NO BURN. For more information, please visit www.sparetheair.org/about/woodburningrule.htm. Things you can do to reduce wood smoke pollution:

- Reduce or eliminate wood burning in your fireplace or stove.
- Retrofit your wood-burning fireplace with a natural gas insert.
- Replace your older wood stove with a newer EPA certified wood stove or a pellet stove.
- Follow maintenance instructions that came with your wood-stove and keep your chimney swept.
- Make sure your wood is dry and seasoned.
- Register to receive Air Alerts at www.sparetheair.org



Source: Bay Area Air Quality Management District: www.sparetheair.org

Home Rehabilitation Loans Available for Qualified Homeowners

Did you know that low interest home improvement loans are available to qualified homeowners in Los Altos Hills? The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Rehabilitation Program was created by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The federally funded program is operated by the Santa Clara County Department of Affordable Housing to assist income eligible homeowners in Los Altos Hills to bring their homes up to minimum health and safety code standards. The funds are distributed in the form of low interest loans for home repairs, which are available to homeowners who meet the income eligibility requirements established by HUD. Loans may be used for repairs such as new roof, heating, painting, plumbing and structural improvements. For more information on the program and its eligibility requirements, please contact Bill McWood, Senior Management Analyst, County Office of Affordable Housing at (408) 441-4276.

*For Council Agenda and Minutes,
See our Website:
www.losaltoshills.ca.gov*

greenwaste | a brighter shade of green

GreenWaste Recovery, Inc. is pleased to announce the **Town-wide Clean-up Event** on Saturday, October 25th was a huge success! For prior events, residents were required to drive to different locations to drop-off different materials. During the development of our partnership with Los Altos Hills, it was decided that residents would benefit greatly from consolidating the event into a single location at Foothill College and accepting all the materials that were previously accepted. This change made the event an even greater success than we could have anticipated!

Sooner than we all expected, 2008 is nearly complete and GreenWaste wants to wish you and yours, a safe and **Happy Holiday Season!**

During the 2008-2009 holiday season, GreenWaste will be providing **expanded services** and a **modified holiday schedule** including:



🌱 **Holiday Collection Schedule:** It is important to us that your collection drivers and customer service representatives have the opportunity to enjoy the holidays with their families. Customer service will be closed and collection will not occur on the holidays listed below. Only residents whose collection days are normally on Thursday and Friday will be affected by the modified schedule. *Thursday* collections will occur on *Friday* and *Friday* collections will occur on *Saturday*.

Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 27th

Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25th

New Year's Day: Thursday, January 1st

🌱 **Holiday Tree Recycling:** Beginning December 26, 2008 and ending January 23, 2009, GreenWaste will pick-up your *unornamented* holiday trees cut to approximately *4-foot lengths*. You do not need to call to schedule pick-up, just place the unornamented/cut tree beside your Compostable Materials cart no later than 8:00am on your normal collection day.

🌱 **Extra Garbage Pick-up:** If you have extra garbage that you would like collected, please call Customer Service at 650-947-4994 at least 48 hours in advance of your normal pick-up day to schedule a pick-up. Our collection drivers can only pick-up extra garbage if it has been scheduled. Extra garbage pick-up will be charged at approximately 25% of the monthly service rate for a 32-gallon cart. Once you have scheduled pick-up with Customer Service, please place the extra garbage in a 32-gallon cart or bag beside your Solid Waste cart no later than 8:00am on your normal collection day.

Beginning January 1, 2009, having your extra garbage picked-up will be much more convenient! Instead of contacting Customer Service to schedule a pick-up, stickers will be made available for you to purchase in advance. For the first few months of this program, we will continue to allow residents to schedule pick-up and we will add the nominal charge directly to your bill.

Happy Holidays from GreenWaste Recovery, Inc.!

Green Corner

Green Corner: Finding the Low Hanging Fruit



The Environmental Initiatives Committee is aware that:

1. On average, LAH residents are among the top per-capita consumers of energy and water in the bay area (see graphs at www.LAHGreen.org), and
2. Among LAH households there is a wide range in energy and water efficiency.

These two facts suggest there is an opportunity to better understand how we use energy and water, and identify and disseminate sensible practices for increasing efficient use of these resources and lowering our utility bills.

To that end, the EIC is working on a voluntary program of home audits that would help residents do just that. If your home is an above-average user of electricity, natural gas or water, you might benefit from such a program.

Details to follow. In the mean time, if you'd be interested in a possible home audit or would consider helping out as an auditor (training to be provided) please submit your name to City Clerk Karen Jost at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, LAH, 94022 or call (650) 941-7222.

-- Steve Schmidt & Peter Evans, Environmental Initiatives Committee

Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD)

Los Altos Hills Disaster Information & Classes



CERT Trainers at June '08 Picnic

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District and the Santa Clara County Fire Department are offering several free Disaster Preparedness Class for our citizens.

Personal Emergency Preparedness (Free Class)
January 24, 2009, 9am-12:30 pm Saturday

Personal Emergency Preparedness (Free Class)
February 25, 2009 6pm-9:30 pm Wednesday

Senior + Personal Emergency Preparedness (Free Class)
January 31, 2009 9am-1pm Saturday

Senior + Personal Emergency Preparedness (Free Class)
February 24th & 26th 4-6pm Tuesday & Thursday

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
Community members become fully trained to assist our citizens in the event of a Disaster. This is an 18-hour class being offered March 3, 10, 17, 24 & April 4, 2009. The prerequisite to attend this class is you must attend one of our Personal Emergency Preparedness classes. There is a \$90 fee for this class, however upon completion of the class you will be reimbursed for the \$90 class fee.

Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
4 hour class to learn life saving techniques. The prerequisite to attend this class is you must attend one of our Personal Emergency Preparedness classes. There is no charge to Los Altos Hills County Fire District citizens. Go to our web site for class dates and times.

For more information on registering or obtaining information about the above classes go to www.lahcfd.org, go to Public Classes and register or you can call Mike Sanders Emergency Services Coordinator (650) 922-1055

Don't wait for the next disaster to become prepared. Enroll now for the class.

ARTEVENT

Walk & Talk with Artist Anne Trainer

Palo Alto Artist Anne Trainer will talk about her exhibit at Town Hall on

Date: Thursday, January 29,

Time: 10:30 AM until 12 noon.

Location: Reception room at Town Hall.

The event is open to the public.

Current Exhibition: Anne Trainer Art Exhibit at Town Hall Until March 2009

Next Exhibition: Mark Your Calendars

Mike Wang's Art Reception will be March 22, 2009, 2-5 PM at Town Hall.

Caroling in the Hills

LAH Town Hall

Mark Your Calendars! -- December 23rd 7PM - 9PM

Residents of Los Altos Hills and nearby communities are invited to participate in the Los Altos Hills Annual Holiday Caroling Event on Tuesday, December 23, 2008. Members of the Community Relations Committee will provide hot drinks and treats in the Parks and Recreation Building at 7:00 PM. Following a brief warm-up of voices and holiday spirit, the carolers will follow paths to many nearby homes for caroling at local LAH homes. Adults, kids, families, seniors and members from surrounding communities are all welcome to attend this event. Feel free to invite your high school singing groups, or scouting groups, clubs, etc. to this event. The evening will conclude with warm refreshments at Town Hall/Parks-Recreation building. Join with your neighbors in bringing fun holiday cheer to the neighborhoods. Carolers should wear warm clothes and bring a flashlight. In case of rain, we will simply sing holiday songs at Town Hall only. For more information, please contact Scott Vanderlip at (650) 948-6455.

-- Scott Vanderlip, Co-Chair Park and Recreation Committee

Westwind Community Barn Trail Rides Now Available

The Town and Western Trail Riding Service (WTRS) have recently partnered to begin a trail riding program in the Hills! All rides will begin from Westwind Barn, located at 27210 Altamont Road.



There will be two beautiful and distinctive types of rides. A 30 minute "Bay View Ride" will take you to the top of Byrne Preserve for a spectacular view. The 60 minute "Valley Floor Ride" will take you along the serene pathways behind Westwind Barn and Byrne Preserve. Each trail ride is offered up to 3-4 times every Saturday and Sunday. The "Bay View Ride" is \$35/\$40 for residents/non-residents. The "Valley Floor Ride" is \$45/\$50 for residents/non-residents.

Come on out and register as an individual, with your family or with your friends!!

For more information and to register, please call Parks and Recreation at 650-941-7222 or visit us on the web at www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/recreation. Customers may call WTRS at 925-862-9044 or visit them on the web at www.westerntrail-riding.com.

Los Altos Hills Parks and Recreation Classes

The Town of Los Altos Hills' Parks and Recreation Department is offering several exciting camps and classes in the upcoming weeks. Space is filling up quickly so sign up now! For more information and to register call us at

650-941-7222 x 241 or check out our website at <http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/recreation>.

Here is a sampler of what's to come!!

- Year Round Horseback Riding Program: Mon-Wed and Sat-Sun, 1/5 – 2/15 and 2/24 – 4/8
- Horseback Riding Camps: 12/20-12/23 and 4/13-4/17
- Private Horseback Riding Lessons: At your convenience to schedule with the Town
- Trail Riding from Westwind Barn
- Blue Angels Youth Ski & Snowboarding: 1/24 – 2/28
- Bio-Blast Science Camp: 12/22-12/23
- Sloppy Science Lab: 12/29-12/30
- Spy Academy: 4/13-4/17
- Rally Obedience Training for your dog: 1/6-3/10, 3/17-4/21
- Child/Infant First Aid & CPR: 1/25
- Adult First Aid & CPR: 2/22



Town of Los Altos Hills

Volunteers

STANDING COMMITTEES

Citizen Involvement Makes a Community

Citizen involvement is needed to maintain and enhance the quality of life in Los Altos Hills. Citizens can make their voices heard by serving as volunteers on advisory committees and commissions. The Town of Los Altos Hills appoints citizens to 11 Standing Committees, 6 Ad Hoc, and 6 Special Committees and Outside Agency Appointments. Each year the City Council celebrates the devotion of the volunteers by hosting a dinner honoring their commitment to the Town. Listed below are the many volunteers who give countless hours of their time to make our Town the wonderful place that it is. If you are interested on serving on a committee, please contact the Karen Jost, City Clerk at (650) 941-7222.

Community Relations

City Council Liaison: Mayor Pro Tem
Dean Warshawsky
Roy Woolsey (Chair)
Roger Burnell
Karen Emerzian
Ron Knapp
Nick Osborne
Dorothy "Duffy" Price
Patty Woolsey

Associate Members

Bill Downey
Robert Mabe
Linda Seidel
Linda & John Swan
Barbara Waldeck

Education

Mayor Pro Tem D. Warshawsky
Councilmember Craig A. T. Jones
Anne Marie Gallagher (Chair)
Bart Carey
Irena Halsey
John Radford
Eric Ramberg
Susan Stark

Emergency Communications

City Council Liaison: Mayor Mordo
Edwin Jones (Chair)
Jim Abraham
Dru Anderson
Robert Anderson
Ray Egan
Charlie Ellinger
Rick Ellinger
Andy Fawcett
David Gilmore
Robert Hall
Andrew Kirk
Lynn McLeod
Scott Overstreet
David Pratt
Miles Aaron Seiver
Tierney "Terry" Smith
Robert Smithwick
Maynard Stevenson
Gerald Tomanek
Gary Waldeck
Al Whaley
Sam Wood

Associate Members

Peter Berman
Robert Lisbonne
Edward Radlo

Environmental Design and Protection

City Council Liaison: Councilmember
Mike O'Malley
Pat Ley (Chair)
April Anair
Lysbeth Goodman
Sandra Humphries
Gauri Pendharkar
Neela Shukla
Carl Silverman

Environmental Initiatives

City Council Liaison: Councilmember
Breene Kerr
Jay Shideler (Chair)
Ian Earnest
Peter Evans
John Harpootlian
Lewis Jamison
Mark Jensen
Kelly Pope
Raj Reddy
Steve Schmidt
Walt Wilson

Finance and Investment

Mayor Jean Mordo
Roddy Sloss (Chair)
Wilfred Corrigan
Allan Epstein
Karl Kneip
Jim Lai
Frank Lloyd
Stanley Mok
R. Douglas Norby
Lalla Stark

History

Council Liaison: Mayor Jean Mordo
Mary Ann Malcolm (Chair)
William Downey
Les Earnest
Thomas P. McReynolds
Bob Stutz

Associate Member

Barbara Packard

Open Space

City Council Liaison: Councilmember
Breene Kerr
Roger Spreen (Chair)
Patty Ciesla
Nancy Couperus
Mary Davey

Karen Lemes
Richard Partridge
Alice Sakamoto
Jean Struthers
Susan Welch

Parks and Recreation

City Council Liaison: Councilmember
Mike O'Malley
Rebecca Hickman (Co-Chair)
Scott Vanderlip (Co-Chair)
Karen Bergh
Kathy Evans
Steve Johnson
Jamie Lucia
Valerie Metcalfe
Patty Radlo
Julia Zarcone

Pathways

City Council Liaison: Councilmembers
Breene Kerr & Mike O'Malley
Nick Dunckel (Chair)
James Bliss
Anna Brunzell
Courtenay C. Corrigan
Nancy Ginzton
Bill Silver
Bob Stutz
Ginger Summit
Chris Vargas
Jolon Wagner
Susan Welch

Westwind Community Barn

Council Liaison; Councilmember Breene Kerr (Chair)
Doreen Andriacchi
Nancy Couperus
Shari Emling
Kathy Evans
Jane Kawasaki
Susan Lam
Valerie Metcalfe
Jeanne Seeley
Ulli Sharma
John Swan

Alternate Member

Colette Penne Cranston

Associate Members

Mary Pat Gaspich
Elaine Nelson
Linda Swan

Happy Holidays - 2008!

Town of Los Altos Hills

Volunteers

SPECIAL TOWN COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

Joint Volunteer Awards

Council Liaison: Mayor Jean Mordo
Roger Burnell (Chair)
Bob Johnson
Bob Stutz
Ginger Summit

Ad Hoc Infrastructure

Council Liaison: Councilmember Mike
O'Malley, Chair
Lauren Angelo
Gloria Chen
Bob Johnson
Mark Kroot
Mansour Moussavian

Ad Hoc General Plan Update

Council Liaison: Mike O'Malley, Chair
Carl Cottrell
Elayne Dauber
Carol Gottlieb
Dot Schreiner
Janet Vitu

Ad Hoc Recreation Field & Facilities

Councilmember Craig A. T. Jones
Councilmember Breene Kerr
Steve Johnson
Scott Vanderlip

Ad Hoc Undergrounding

Council Liaison: Mayor Pro Tem Dean War-
shawsky, Chair
Jim Abraham
Andrew Colman
Peter Evans
Tony Jurvetson
Becky Morgan
Dorothy "Duffy" Price
Steve Schmidt
Roy Woolsey

Exhibit Curator

Karen Druker

SPECIAL COMMITTEES & OUTSIDE AGENCY APPOINTMENTS

Los Altos Library Commission

Jim Lai
David Struthers

LASD Citizens' Advisory Committee for Finance (CACF)

Francis La Poll

North County Library Authority

Mayor Jean Mordo
Jim Lai

Youth Commissioner

Ting Ting Lui

Associate Youth Commissioner

Lisa Kellman

Santa Clara VTA Bicycle Advisory Committee

Nancy Ginzton


School Corner

Local Los Altos Hills School is Named a Blue Ribbon School

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings named St. Nicholas Catholic School of Los Altos Hills and 319 other U.S. schools as 2008 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools. St. Nicholas was one of only five California private schools and the only school awarded in Northern California.

St. Nicholas School was selected based on the students (regardless of background) achieving test scores in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the case of private schools in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests. The Blue Ribbon application asks for a mission statement, test scores and comprehensive academic programs, including extracurricular activities.

"Receiving the Blue Ribbon award validates all the hard work teachers, parents, pastoral staff and students have accomplished. We are extremely honored to be a part of the select few who are chosen to be a Blue Ribbon School. We are proud of our students and teachers for all their hard work inside and outside of the classroom," said Principal Matt Komar.



BULLIS CHARTER SCHOOL

Inspiring the Individual™

The Choice is Yours.

Enroll now at Bullis Charter School.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT


- California Distinguished School Award 2008
- Top 1% of elementary schools in California

CONTINUOUS PROGRAM EXPANSION

- Electives during and after school
- Performing arts, environmental science, sports, art & foreign languages

INDIVIDUALIZED GOALS IN A SMALL SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

- Tailored plans for every child
- Low student-teacher ratios



"In the site team's combined 65+ years of experience, we have seldom experienced the power of a vision so fully implemented."

2008 CA Distinguished School Committee of the California Department of Education

NOW ENROLLING FOR 2009-10

Parent Info Nights
Nov. 18 • Dec. 11 • Jan. 13
At 7:00 pm
 Space available in all grades.
 Open Enrollment ends 1/30/09.

www.bullischarterschool.org

102 West Portola Avenue | Los Altos, CA 94022 | Tel: 650.947.4939 | Fax: 650.947.4989

Bullis Charter School Calendar Events:

Open Enrollment Parent Informational Nights

December 11th and December 13th at 7pm
 Held at Bullis Charter School
 102 West Portola Avenue
 Los Altos, 94022

Parents only, please.
 Questions: 947-4939

*Enrollment Priority for Los Altos Hills Residents.
 Please see our web site at
www.BullisCharterSchool.org for details.

Open Enrollment Informational Coffee

Wednesday, December 10th from 9am until 11am.
 Held at 13920 Fremont Pines Lane, Los Altos Hills
 Children welcomed.

This is a wonderful opportunity for those interested in learning about Bullis Charter School. Please come and meet existing BCS parents as well as those considering BCS for their children.
 For questions and to RSVP please contact:
rsvp@bullischarterschool.com

Drama Department Presents Two Outstanding Musicals:

CATS

A medley of Andrew Lloyd Weber's epic musical and other cat classics, this adorable musical is sure to entertain! Starring BCS students in grades 1 - 4.

Performance dates and times are listed below.
 Tickets are \$5.00 at the door.

Thursday, December 4th, 6:30pm
 Friday, December 5th, 6:30pm
 Saturday, December 6th, 4pm
 Saturday, December 6th, 6:30pm

BULLIES

You've heard of the Oscars and the Tony Awards - here come the "Bullies". This outstanding musical feature fabulous show tunes performed by 5th and 6th grade students as they compete for the coveted award.

December 9th and 10th at 6:30pm
 Held at Bullis Charter School
rsvp@BullisCharterSchool.com

Music Department Presents

Winter Concert featuring the BCS choir, violin ensembles and the BCS band
 December 15th and 16th at 6:30pm
 Held at Bullis Charter School
rsvp@BullisCharterSchool.com

Dance Team Presents

Come and enjoy a dance spooktacular as the BCS dance team performs "Nightmare-cracker".

December 12th and 13th at 6:30
 Held at Bullis Charter School
rsvp@BullisCharterSchool.com

Los Altos Hills County Fire District Upgrades Life-saving Procedures New Technology: Cardiac Life Support System Implemented

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District was formed in 1939 and is directed by a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, and serves the Town of Los Altos Hills and the adjacent unincorporated areas. The commission is composed of local residents familiar both with the special risks and needs that are unique to our community. The actual firefighting, emergency rescue, and life-saving tasks of the district are contracted with the Santa Clara County Fire Department (the district handles other functions as well – primarily to do with pipelines and assuring adequate water for firefighting, but also providing services to our district such as brush chipping and dead pine tree removal). The commission strives to keep the department equipped with the best equipment available and as a result over the years it has been a pioneer in deploying the very latest in tools and technologies.

While we traditionally associate the business of firefighting with the department, in fact the bulk of its activities have to do with emergency medical services – everything from automobile accidents to sudden “cardiac events” to mountain-biking accidents in the hills. To this end, the commission has been able to ensure that our local firefighters have access to the very latest technologies and are fully trained in their deployment.

In the spring of 2004, the Department was among the first in the world to deploy an automated non-invasive cardiac life support pump. Manual Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) will typically only provide 10-20% of normal blood flow to the heart and 30-40% to the brain (even in the hands of skilled and fully trained personnel). With this device, our firefighters can regularly sustain vastly improved blood flow that would not be possible with human hands. Even as early adopters, our department has been able to demonstrate an increase in pre-hospital survival rates of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) on an annual basis.

Since then, there have been further advances in technology that include “See-Through CPR”, the soon to be released “Shock Timing”, and advanced “Bluetooth” capabilities. Continuing our tradition of “early adopters”, the Fire Department has recently upgraded its cardiac monitoring devices to leverage these latest innovations. Having already set the bar high for standards in the pre-hospital setting for SCA, there are now opportunities for the emergency handling of victims suffering symptomatic chest pain.

In August, the Santa Clara County EMS Agency implemented a novel ST segment Elevated Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) Care System. This system works in cooperation with area hospitals and cardiology specialists to direct paramedics in identifying pre-hospital patients for rapid transport to the system’s closest receiving hospitals. As a result of this early identification and rapid transport, symptomatic patients can be expedited toward faster cardiac catheterization leading to faster relief and improved recovery rates

However, this advanced notification is of limited usefulness unless the patient’s initial presenting electrocardiogram (EKG) readings can also be expedited, thus improving the awaiting cardiologist’s ability to prepare definitive treatment at the hospital while the patient is still being rescued or transported.

Accordingly, and in another example of early adoption, over this summer, the Fire Department purchased 26 new monitor/defibrillators, as part of a scheduled replacement program, and placed them on all of the department’s vehicles. This has enabled paramedic personnel to sustain the above technological advances and leverage advances in the “Bluetooth” capabilities built into these monitors. Soon, all Department paramedics will have the ability to communicate directly with hospital physicians and cardiology teams via “Bluetooth” transmission of the patient’s EKG readings as an email attachment directly from the side of patient.

--- Ron Vega, Battalion Chief, Emergency Services Coordinator, Santa Clara County Fire Department &
Jitze Couperus, LAHCFD Commissioner



Los Altos Hills 1st Annual Pumpkin Weigh-off



*Pictured above with the Brier Pumpkin (left to right):
Sivan Spector, Olivia Zunino, Emma Mason, and Michelle
Carson.*

The winner of the first annual LAH pumpkin weigh-off was Mark Brier, Esperanza Drive with a gorgeous 711.5 pounder. Second place went to Lee Harley and the Hartley boys with a 402 pounder. This pumpkin also placed 32nd at the Half Moon Bay weigh-off

Green Building Ordinance Adopted

On October 9, 2009 the Los Altos Hills City Council adopted the Green Construction Ordinance, New Chapter 8-1.3 Green Building Regulations affecting new residences and public buildings, and is optional for remodels. The new requirements were proposed and adopted and several rounds of public hearings and serve to address the AB32 State of California's Global Warming Solution Act of 2006 that mandates the state and local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. The new ordinance provides for achieving a minimum of 50 points on the checklist for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental design for homes. Development incentives including expedited permit processing and for those meeting a high threshold, building inspections guaranteed within two days of request. If residents who are performing remodels wish to adopt these standards, then they also will qualify for the incentive program.

Open Space Committee Report

Gardening Tips for the Winter & Upcoming Events

- **December is the best time to prune many trees in California.** Deciduous trees have lost their leaves, are dormant, and have ample energy reserves. Oaks are an exception and are best pruned in midsummer. Spring is generally the worst time to prune because trees are growing rapidly and trimming may disturb nesting birds.
- **It's not too late to pull out stinkweed (Dittrichia).** Removing plants before the seeds drop will help prevent spread of this invasive weed. Cut plants at the base and bag them or put them in your green waste bin for pickup.
- **Missed the "Oh, Rats!" seminar?** A video of the program is available at <http://friendsofthehills.org/information/OhRats.htm>
- **Do your oaks have Sudden Oak Death (SOD)?** UC Berkeley researcher, Dr. Matteo Garbelotto will hold an educational "SOD Blitz" at LAH Town Hall on Saturday May 9, 2009. Mark your calendar! Participants will learn how to identify SOD symptoms and then collect samples from their properties. Test results and management options will be presented at a follow-up meeting. The event is free and open to all. Details at www.nature.berkeley.edu/garbelotto/english/sodblitz.php

-- Sue Welch, Open Space Committee

Holiday Safety Class

The holiday season is a wonderful time of year. Everything is *different!* We face risks during the holidays that we don't during the rest of the year, and as a result, many people's holidays are spoiled by unfortunate events that could have been prevented. This class will discuss those risks, and how to protect yourself and your loved ones against them.

Topics covered:

- Fire Dangers
- Electrical Hazards
- Fall Hazards
- Personal Safety
- Stress
- Poisons
- Foods
- Toys



When: Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 7 pm to 8 pm.

**Where: Town Hall Council Chambers,
26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills**

**Information: (650) 947-2508 Steve Garcia, Public
Safety Officer**

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BE SWORN IN

At the December 11, 2008 regular City Council meeting, outgoing Council members Mike O'Malley and Craig Jones will be acknowledged and thanked for their service to the Los Altos Hills community and the newly elected Council members will take the Oath of Office to begin their four-year terms. Election results to be certified by the Register of Voters on December 2, 2008. Source: Bay Area Air Quality Management District: www.sparetheair.org

Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

This is the official Town Newsletter to communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government. The 2008 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is January 31, 2009.

Internet Address: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

About Our Publication

The Town Newsletter is published with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committees.

Editor: Dorothy Duffy Price

Associate Editors: Barbara Waldeck, Linda Seidel, Patty Woolsey

Photographer: Jitze Couperus

Los Altos Hills City Council

Jean Mordo, Mayor • Dean Warshawsky, Vice Mayor
Craig Jones • Breene Kerr • Mike O'Malley

Recycled Paper

Sandbags Now Available

Free sandbags are available to residents during the wet weather season. Residents can fill their own sandbags at Elena Road and Purissima Road or they can pick up filled sandbags at 1925 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, near the air terminal. If you would like additional information on sandbags, call Steve Garcia at (650)-947-2508 or visit Santa Clara Valley Water District's website at www.valleywater.org

Community Donor Wall Is Your Family Memory On the Wall?

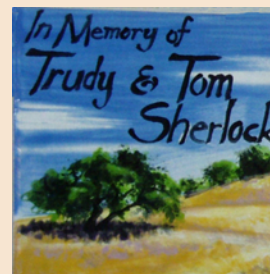


If you haven't yet donated a tile, there is still plenty of time to create a tile for the Community Donor Wall. You are encouraged to do so by donating \$200 for a 4x4 tile or \$600 for an 8x8 size tile. Stop by Town Hall and pick up a form to complete the purchase of the tile. Donations are tax deductible.

You may design the tile with your family name or create a lasting commemorative legacy image that will remain

forever on the Donor Wall. If you need help to design the tile, we can refer you to an artist that you can make special arrangements.

Over 200 tiles have been completed. Stop by and take a look at the wonderful history that is being created by the families of Los Altos Hills. If you have already donated a tile for the Community Donor Wall but not completed it, please contact Duffy Price at 650-948-0596 to schedule to complete your tile.



THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Holiday Barn Lighting
At Westwind Community Barn
27210 Altamont Road, Los Altos
Hills, CA 94022
Sunday, December 7th
1:00 - 4:00 PM



Join the Los Altos Hills Community for a special “Uniquely Hills” holiday celebration this season. Spend the day in the fresh air, at the local horse barn and Byrne Preserve, sampling home baked cookies and hot cider, or wine taste with local vintners, while kids participate in games and craft tables and face painting activities. Bring the whole family for a day in the Hills that they will not forget! Make this holiday season memorable!

Parking is very limited, so car-pool or walk if you can.

Info: (650) 948-8985 or email: EvansASE@aol.com

Free Compost-New Location

Town residents can pick up free compost provided by GreenWaste at the new location at Elena Road and Purissima Road. Please call Steve Garcia at (650) 947-2508 or Nick Pegueros at (650) 947-2515 to replenish the supply of compost.

Town of Los Altos Hills
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, California 94022

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Los Altos Hills

California Poppy Community Planting Project



Plant those poppies!

If you have any questions, please contact
Eric Christensen, LAH Parks and
Recreation Director at (650) 941-7222